AS

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/058,892	GIRARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James Mackey	1722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-20*.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on *28 January 2002* are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached *EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT* or *NOTICE OF* INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. ____.
 (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
4☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No.____ .
5☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. *1/02*.
6☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
7☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
8☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9☐ Other .

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 15, line 22, "the first annulus" has been changed to --the segmented bead molding ring--.

On page one of the specification, line 6, "a US application" has been changed to --copending US application Serial No. 10/058,538--.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a method for providing a two-stage movement for engagement of an expandable bead molding ring with a sidewall molding plate to form a bead molding pocket in a tire mold within a mold press, wherein a first stage of movement comprises radial expansion of the bead molding ring to form a circumferentially continuous outward-facing bead molding surface that is positioned axially inward of the sidewall molding plate, and a second stage of movement comprises pressing the bead molding ring axially outward to engage the bead molding surface with the sidewall molding plate, the method comprising the steps of: using axial movement of the mold press to cause both the first stage and the second stage of movement; resisting the first stage of movement with a first set of springs; providing first stopping surfaces for halting the first stage of movement with the circumferentially continuous outward-facing bead molding surface is formed; resisting the second stage of movement with a second set of springs; providing the second set of springs with spring resistance sufficient to prevent axial

movement of the bead molding ring until after the first stage of movement is halted by the first stopping surfaces; and providing second stopping surfaces for halting the second stage of movement when the bead molding pocket is formed, as claimed in claim 1.

Also, the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest an expandable bead molding ring assembly, nor a tire mold including such a bead molding ring assembly, comprising: an annular segmented bead molding ring comprising a plurality of segments that radially expand to form a circumferentially continuous radially outward-facing bead molding surface and a radially inner frustoconical cam surface; an annular top spring plate concentric and axially adjacent to the bead molding ring and comprising radially-oriented radial springs that are attached to all of the plurality of segments for controlling radial movement of the plurality of segments; and an annular bottom spring plate concentric and axially adjacent to the top spring plate and comprising axially-oriented axial springs acting between the top spring plate and the bottom spring plate for controlling axial movement of the plurality of segments, as in claims 4 and 15.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Mackey whose telephone number is 703-308-1195. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on 703-308-0457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

James Mackey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1722
9/25/03